WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A contents control method for managing said contents based on key code information containing content usage information set within a range that the contents can be utilized, said method comprising the steps of:

comparing said content usage rights information with status code information showing the usage status of said contents;

comparing said status code information with output setting information having a threshold value within the range of said contents usage rights information to warn by warning report data when in proximity to said contents usage rights in the case where said status code information is within the range of said contents usage rights information; and

outputting said warning report data when said status code information exceeds said output setting information.

2. A contents control method according to claim 1, wherein when said status code information reaches the contents usage information, usage of said contents is prohibited and invalidation report data is outputted, reporting that use of said contents has been prohibited.

3. A contents control method according to claim 1, wherein a deletion elapse time for setting a period from prohibiting usage of said contents to deletion of said contents

is set in said output setting information, and when the period from prohibiting usage of said contents to said deletion elapse time is reached, said contents are deleted and deletion report data is outputted to report said contents have been deleted.

4. A contents control method according to claim 1, wherein loading period information set with the loading timing for loading said contents usage right information, said status code information and said output setting information are set in said setting information, and said status code information, said contents usage information and said setting information are compared based on said loading interval information.

5. A contents control method according to claim 1, wherein said warning report data, said invalidation report data and said deletion report data are respectively outputted to screen display means.

6. A contents control method according to claim 1, wherein said warning report data, said invalidation report data and said deletion report data are respectively outputted as electronic mail.

7. A contents control device for managing said contents based on key code information containing content usage information set within a range where the contents can be utilized, said device comprising:

memory storage means stored with said contents, said

key code information, and status code information showing the usage status of said contents, and output setting information having a threshold value within the range of said contents usage rights information for warning by warning report data when in proximity to said contents usage rights;

key code monitor means to control usage limits of said contents by comparing said contents usage rights, said status code information and said output setting information, said key code monitor means comprising a function to output said warning report data when said status code information exceeds said output setting information; and

content output means containing a function to reproduce said contents of said memory storage means and a function to output said warning report data.

8. A program storage medium for storing the contents control program for managing said contents based on key code information containing content usage information set within a range where the contents can be utilized, said medium comprising:

memory storage means stored with said contents, said key code information, and status code information showing the usage status of said contents, and output setting information having a threshold value within the range of said contents usage rights information for warning by warning report data

when in proximity to said contents usage rights;

key code monitor means to control usage limits of said contents by comparing said contents usage rights, said status code information and said output setting information, said key code monitor means comprising a function to output said warning report data when said status code information exceeds said output setting information; and

said content output means containing a function to reproduce said contents of said memory storage means and a function to output said warning report data.